

Appln. No. 10/625,619
Amendment dated March 21, 2005
Reply to Office Action mailed December 20, 2004

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 8, with the following rewritten paragraph (deleted text being struck through and added text being underlined):

Throughout this specification the tool holding system is described in the context of retaining a handle of a tool, for the sake of simplicity in explanation of the operation of the device. However, the present invention anticipates being used in conjunction with a wide range of tools and in multiple configurations. Therefore it is possible, and indeed likely that the present invention will be used to retain tools without "handles" by retaining the bodies, housings, or other elements of the tool. Additionally, the present device can be used with coiled tools such [[[a]]] as extension cords, lariats, cables, hoses, or other such tools.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 18, with the following rewritten paragraph (deleted text being struck through and added text being underlined):

The mounting assembly 20 is for selectively coupling the system 10 to a vertical surface of a structure 6. The first jaw assembly ~~40 is~~ 40 is operationally coupled to the mounting ~~assembly 20~~ assembly 20, and is designed for abutting a first side of the handle 4 of the tool 2 being retained. The second jaw 50 assembly is pivotally coupled to the mounting assembly 20, and is designed for abutting a second side of the handle 4 of the tool 2 being retained. The handle 4 is selectively retained between the first jaw assembly 40 and the second jaw assembly 50.

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Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 28, with the following rewritten paragraph (deleted text being struck through and added text being underlined):

In an embodiment the mounting assembly 20 further comprises a first mounting member 21 and a second mounting member 31. The first mounting member 21 includes a first flange portion 22 and a first horizontal support portion 23. The first flange portion 22 is for abutting the vertical surface of the structure 6. The first horizontal support portion 23 is coupled to the first flange portion 22. The first flange portion 22 includes a top surface 28 defining a plane. The first horizontal support portion 23 includes a first surface 29 defining a first ~~horizontal~~ vertical plane. The first support horizontal portion 23 is preferably positioned such that the first ~~horizontal~~ vertical plane is substantially perpendicular to the plane formed by the top surface 28. Similarly, the second mounting member 31 also includes a second flange portion 32 and a second horizontal support portion 33. The second flange portion 32 is for abutting the vertical surface of the structure 6. The second horizontal support portion 33 is coupled to the second flange portion 32. The second flange portion 32 includes a second top surface 38 defining a second plane. The second horizontal support portion 33 includes a second surface 39 defining a second ~~horizontal~~ vertical plane. The second horizontal support portion 33 is preferably positioned such that the second ~~horizontal~~ vertical plane ~~being~~ is substantially perpendicular to the second plane formed by the second top surface 38.

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Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 10, line 16, with the following rewritten paragraph (deleted text being struck through and added text being underlined):

In yet a further embodiment the first jaw assembly 40 further comprises a horizontal portion 41 and a vertical portion 42. The horizontal portion 41 is operationally coupled to the mounting ~~assembly 20~~ assembly 20. The vertical portion 42 is operationally coupled to the horizontal portion 41. The horizontal 41 and vertical portions 42 are for abutting the handle 4 to the tool 2 being retained.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 11, line 20, with the following rewritten paragraph (deleted text being struck through and added text being underlined):

In an embodiment the coupling portion 51 further comprises a horizontal member 52, a first tab portion 53, and a second tab portion 54. The horizontal member 52 extends between the first support portion 23 and the second support portion 33. The first tab portion 53 extends rearwardly from the horizontal member 52 adjacent to the first support portion 23. The first tab portion 53 facilitates pivotal coupling of the second jaw assembly 50 to the mounting assembly 20. Similarly, the second tab portion 54 also extends rearwardly from the horizontal member 52 adjacent to the second support portion 33. The second tab portion 54 facilitates pivotal coupling of the second jaw assembly 50 to the mounting assembly 20. A first coupling hole 45 may extend through the first support portion 23. A second coupling hole ~~[[[62]]]~~ 55 may ~~extending~~ extend through the first tab portion ~~[[[52]]]~~ 53. The second coupling hole 62 is aligned with the first coupling hole 45. A third coupling hole 46 ~~hole~~ may extend through the second support portion 33. A fourth coupling hole 56 may extend through the second tab portion 54. The fourth coupling hole 54 is aligned with the third coupling

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hole 46. Preferably, a single bolt 47 extends through the first 45, second 55, third 46 and fourth coupling holes 56. The bolt 47 is secured with an associated nut 48.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 12, line 16, with the following rewritten paragraph (deleted text being struck through and added text being underlined):

In an embodiment ~~the~~ a first coupling means and ~~the~~ a second coupling means further comprises a single pin 47 extending through the first 45, second 55, third 46, and fourth coupling holes 56. The pin 47 may be secured either by a cotter pin 43, a grip ring 44, or any other suitable device.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 12, line 28, with the following rewritten paragraph (deleted text being struck through and added text being underlined):

In ~~[[[an]]]~~ the embodiment shown in Figure 5, a first, second and third biasing member 75 are operationally coupled between the second jaw assembly 50 and the mounting assembly 20. Each one of said first, second, and third biasing members 75 urge the second jaw assembly 50 towards a closed position. Thus, the handle 4 of the tool 2 is retained. Most preferably, the first biasing member is a spring having seven coils and is adjacent to the first horizontal support portion 23; the second biasing member is a spring having seven coils and is adjacent to the second horizontal support portion 33; and the third biasing member is a spring having five coils, and is positioned between the first biasing member and the second biasing member.

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Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 14, line 1, with the following rewritten paragraph (deleted text being struck through and added text being underlined):

In ~~[[[an]]]~~ the embodiment shown in Figure 7, the first extent 61 tapers inwardly as it extends away from the coupling portion 51 towards the second extent 62. Put differently, the first extent 61 has a first width adjacent to the coupling portion 51, the first extent also has a second width adjacent to the second extent 62, and the first width is greater than the second width.